

# Out of the Shadows of History: How MWHC Celebrated Maryland's Amazing Women

MARYLAND WOMEN'S HERITAGE CENTER

## Overview

The Maryland Women's Heritage Center (MWHC) was the only organization in the state and one of the few in the country devoted to celebrating and preserving stories of Maryland's women. Board members, volunteers, and a small part-time staff helped the nonprofit "add HERstory to history to tell OUR story" between 2004 and 2025.

Why? Simply, women make up about one half of the US population, yet just a fraction of their accomplishments is part of recorded history. MWHC worked to change that.

With in-person and online programs, research, consultations, and projects, MWHC highlighted and permanently preserved the stories of numerous women.

C**over**: In November 2023, leaders from MWHC, Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, Maryland Commission on Women, and Notre Dame University of Maryland dedicated the opening of the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame exhibit in its new home in Notre Dame of Maryland University's Knott Science and Innovation Center. MWHC donated the exhibit to the University since its increasing size had outgrown the MWHC's venue at 333 N. Charles Street in Baltimore.

Pictured: *(l to r) Dr. LaShaune Stitt; Bea Dane; Gina Lewis; Diana M. Bailey; Kate Campbell Stevenson; Danita Terry; Dr. Ida Jones; Dr. Marylou Yam; Sally Grant; Maria Darby; Kathi Santora; Kalin Thomas; Judy Vaugh-Prather; Anna Choudhary; Eliza Davis; Dr. Amy Rosenkrans.*

# Dedicated to Maryland's Valiant and Luminous Women




*Pictured (l to r) Astronaut Mary Cleave; former Woman's Industrial Exchange waitress Layne Bosserman; suffragist Augusta Chissell; computer scientist Dorothy Toplitzky Blum; civil rights activist Gloria Richardson; opera singer Rosa Ponsell; Baltimore matriarch Judith Solomon Cohen.*

# Contributors to this History

Diana M. Bailey

Judy Dobbs

Sally Grant

Jill Moss Greenberg

Kathi Santora

Linda Shevitz

**Lucile Clifton**

**Former Poet Laureate of Maryland**

**Member, MWHC Honorary Board**

**i need to know their names**

**those women i would have walked with . . .**

**all the women who could have known me,**

**where in the world are their names?**

# Legacy of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center

*Remarks by Kathi Santora, MWHC President 2022 - 2025 at the closing ceremony, October 8, 2025*

How many times over the years have you wondered: "Why have I never heard of her?"

For those who were or are teachers: remember while talking about an accomplished woman, you saw that spark in a student's eyes that said "Maybe I could do something like that, too."

Have you looked at fellow volunteers, board members and supporters and thought "I love being around passionate women who care about lifting other women up"?

At the MWHC artist receptions, did you see the artists' joy when sharing their view of the world through art, several for the first time in public?

And, especially lately, have you looked at the world and thought "Don't you dare leave women and their accomplishments to this world behind"?

**The Maryland Women's Heritage Center touched lives and made a difference in this world.**

- We celebrated women of accomplishment in STEM fields in partnership with NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. We told the stories of 100 mostly unknown women in Maryland who fought for suffrage; we researched and coordinated placement of over 10 permanent historical markers in communities throughout Maryland that highlight women who fought for the right to vote.

- We supported the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame selection process and made sure that the physical structure had a permanent home at Notre Dame of Maryland University.

- We brought names and history alive for the first time by researching the history of the people from the former Woman's Industrial Exchange, a Baltimore landmark.

- We lent our expertise about women's history to other nonprofits, to Maryland Public Television, and to national organizations such as the National Women's History Alliance and the Clara Barton National Historic Site.

- We supported emerging student historians by funding the Award for Excellence in Women's History, a part of Maryland Humanities Maryland History Day; developed Women's History Month materials for Maryland schools; and presented dozens of virtual and in-person programs about women and the issues that face them.

- We spotlighted diverse women artists who exhibited their work, some for the first time, in our locations at 39 W. Lexington Street and, later, 333 N. Charles Street in Baltimore.

We did our best to make sure that we were inclusive, fair and accurate in sharing women's history. It was our responsibility since we are the only organization in Maryland and one of the few in the country completely devoted to telling women's stories. We met many accomplished and intelligent women, past and present.

Despite the pain of closing in 2025, MWHC worked to make sure its legacy lived on. MWHC donated a large portion of our collections of displays, exhibits, books, memorabilia, photos, and research to community partners who will use them to celebrate the legacy of Maryland's women.

**See where MWHC donated resources and exhibits.**



*Diana M. Bailey holding a plaque and portrait dedicated to late former volunteers Judy Williams and Linda Mahoney.*

*These memorials, once displayed in MWHC's collection, were returned to their respective families when MWHC closed.*




*MWHC remembered its legacy on October 3, 2025. Board members present: Diana M. Bailey, Bea Dane, Sally Grant, Kate Campbell Stevenson, Danita Terry, Amy Rosenkrans, Maria Darby, Kathi Santora, Kalin Thomas, Judy Carbone, and Ida Jones.*

Part 1

# Roots

Prior to 1980, the history of the United States and of Maryland was overwhelmingly his-story. In those stories, women and girls were generally invisible or described in support and ancillary roles, despite their many achievements.

In March 1980, National Women's History Week was established through an act of Congress (sponsored by then-Maryland Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski). This was made possible with the leadership of the Sonoma County California Commission for Women and Molly Murphy MacGregor, co-founder of the National Women's History Project.

In 1981, Governor Harry Hughes and the Maryland legislature established Maryland Women's History Week, proposed by the Maryland Commission for Women and supported by the Women's Legislative Caucus. Later, the observance was expanded to Women's History Month.

To make visible the rich history of the contributions of women and girls whose names and stories were often missing in traditional textbooks and classrooms in Maryland, the Maryland Women's History Project was proposed by Jill Moss Greenberg to the Maryland Commission for Women (MCW). She and Commission Chair Jo-Ann Mayer Orlinsky met with State Superintendent of Schools David Hornbeck to obtain the support of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Under leadership of Joanne T. Goldsmith, the first woman to chair the State Board of Education, the Board strongly supported the project, and the partnership began.

When Dr. Nancy Grasmick became State Superintendent of Schools, she expanded MSDE support for the Women's History Project. This was done via the Office of Equity

Assurance and staff members Woodrow Grant, Linda Shevitz, and Maggie Green. Linda Shevitz played an integral role in securing additional funding and expansion of materials for schools. She later became a co-founder of the MWHC; Dr. Grasmick joined its board of directors.



(l to r) Sharon Pinder; Jill Moss Greenberg; unknown; Senator Barbara Mikulski; Carmen Delgado Votaw; unknown; unknown; Helen Delich Bentley; Kate Campbell Stevenson; Susan Shaffer; unknown; Ellie Tryon Elgin; Diana M. Bailey and Rita Robinson.

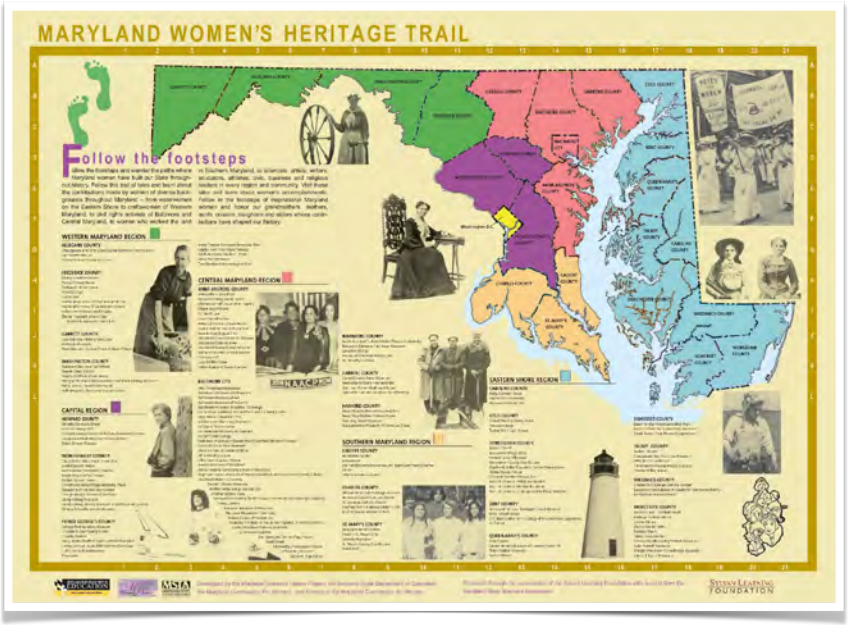
Part 2

## Coordinating Committee

A coordinating committee was created to determine existing gaps in "HERstory" in Maryland and develop programs and materials to fill those gaps. The group included educators, community leaders, advocates, and equity specialists. In addition, the

Commission for Women compiled a speakers bureau list of experts available to speak to school and community groups about women's history topics.

The final product was The Maryland Women's Heritage Trail, a guidebook and map of 150+ historic sites that recall accomplishments of diverse historical and contemporary women.




The Heritage Trail is available digitally and originally was the first of its kind in the nation, recognized as such by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance). Maryland's local historical societies and commissions for women participated in the research and dissemination to historians, leaders of women's organizations and representatives of state and local commissions for women.

For two decades the Maryland Women's History Project annually developed educational packets about Maryland women and distributed them to every school and library in the state.

Each year, the packets reflected a particular theme, such as Maryland Women in Science and Mathematics, Maryland Women in Law and Government, Maryland Women in the Arts, and Maryland Women and Social Reform.

In the 1990s, at the request of educators at all levels, the format was expanded to include bulletin board display materials and photographs of memorable women for classroom and library use.

*"For decades, MWHC volunteers and staff worked to 'add HERstory to history to tell OUR story.'*

*Whether on site, in the community or online, we've been strident in supporting educational equity, diversity and inclusion of all Maryland women and girls. We helped them shine and their extraordinary voices be heard."*

***Diana M. Bailey, Founding Board Member, Founding Mother, Volunteer, and Executive Director 2015 - 2025***

Part 3

# Maryland Women's Hall of Fame

In the early 1980s, Delegate Pauline Menes returned from a national meeting of women legislators where she had learned of a state that had a Women's Hall of Fame. Her proposal for a Maryland hall of fame was met with tremendous enthusiasm.

A partnership between the Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) and Women Legislators of Maryland created the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 1985 to honor women who have made lasting contributions to the state's economic, political, cultural, and social life. It served provide visible examples of achievement for tomorrow's female leaders.

MCW Chair Sally Grant, Executive Director Martha Clark and Commission staff launched the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame at Annapolis's historic Brice House in July 1985.

The emerging Maryland Women's Heritage Center staff and volunteers collaborated with the Commission and Women's Legislative Caucus to convene historians and other women's organizations to select Hall of Fame honorees.

***Click to see Maryland Women's Hall of Fame as of December 2025***

Part 4

# A Room of One's Own

With the wealth of material from the Maryland Women's History Project, the rich stories of the women inducted into the Hall of Fame, and the growing interest in community-based programs related to the stories of women and girls, it became apparent that a physical site for exhibits, programs, and research was necessary.

Jill Moss Greenberg (MCW) and Linda Shevitz (MSDE) met with the First Lady of Maryland, Frances Hughes Glendening, to engage her support. The first lady, who had done her own research on women's history, immediately became involved.

With the support of the first Lady, governor and leaders of the Women's Legislative Caucus -- encouraged by statewide women's organizations – the State of Maryland granted seed money to establish the Maryland Women's Heritage Center and Museum. MWHC was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in the State of Maryland in 2004.

A Founding Board of Directors was created, chaired by Frances Glendening. Two subsequent first ladies, both Republican (Kendel S. Ehrlich) and Democrat (Catherine Curran O'Malley), joined the honorary board and hosted meetings at Government House. Bipartisan and diverse women leaders from all regions of the state were enlisted. With specific intention, several men who strongly

supported rights for women and girls and women's history were included, such as William "Brit" Kirwan, president of the University of Maryland College Park. (A complete list of the Founding Board of Directors may be found at the end of this article.)

To increase visibility, an honorary board was also formed. This Founding Honorary Board included Lucile Clifton (Poet), Dominique Dawes (Gymnast), Cokie Roberts (Journalist), Nora Roberts (Author), and Congresswoman Helen Delich Bentley.

In the years between the incorporation of the Center and its opening, research continued, resources were gathered and distributed, and funding was sought. Partnerships were established with key groups serving girls, women, and history. These included ongoing partnerships with organizations such as the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland (Danita Terry and Maria Darby), NOW (Linda Mahoney and Susan Horst), Maryland Humanities (Catherine Gira and Judy Dobbs), Business & Professional Women of Maryland (BPW/MD), American Association of University Women (AAUW), Maryland Commission for Women, and others. Among the special fundraising and awareness events were:

- **Cokie Roberts Luncheon**: A luncheon was held with Honorary Board Member, journalist and author, Cokie Roberts, who spoke about her book, *We Are Our Mothers' Daughters*.

- **Actress Kate Campbell Stevenson:** Dramatic performances of various women in history by actress Kate Campbell Stevenson drew rave reviews. Stevenson subsequently joined the MWHC board.

- **Hats Off to Women:** Chaired by two first ladies, Kendel Ehrlich and Frances Glendening, this event was held at Pimlico Race Course before the Preakness Stakes. Linda C. Busick from Worcester County was the event manager. The day featured unique hats among participants and a talk by one of the first women jockeys.

  Filmmaker and producer Loretto Gubernatis captured the day on video.

Part 5

## First Location

After a lengthy search for an affordable and accessible location for MWHC, a site was located at 39 W. Lexington Street in the former Baltimore Gas & Electric Building in downtown Baltimore. David Hillman and the Southern Management Companies, in support of the Center's mission, donated street level space with numerous display windows. Mr. Hillman generously included the utilities as well. Perhaps it was no coincidence, since about 100 years earlier a major women's suffrage rally was held at that corner.

The space was modified with designers from Cho Benn Holback, a women-owned architectural firm. Their skill and responsiveness enabled MWHC to make maximum and flexible use of the space and incorporate an entry counter with exhibits and space for programs. A home for the Women's Hall of Fame was created with panels for each inductee. The first separate exhibit was a series of panels entitled "Adding HERstory to History to tell OUR story" and focused on the roles of diverse women and girls through history, beginning with Native American women of Maryland's Piscataway Nation.

Linda Shevitz, Jill Moss Greenberg, Diana M. Bailey, and the coordinating committee developed the interpretive text. Josie Thompson designed much of the layout, assisted by Rebecca Salms.

Two other interactive areas were created. They were a Curiosity Corner for Children and an Unsung Heroine display that featured hearts bearing information about unsung heroines submitted by visitors to the Center or online. Those were coordinated by Linda Linzey (teacher) and Wilhelmina Burress (artist) and attracted significant interest. It was a core priority for MWHC that the unsung heroines in our families and communities were seen as important as the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame women.

The Center was staffed initially by Ellie Elgin, on a part-time loan from the Maryland Commission for Women. Elgin, an artist, coordinated several women's art exhibits. Judi Williams then took on the staffing and was wholly

dedicated to the Center. Docents supplemented the staff and enjoyed telling the stories in the exhibits. For a time, Djohariah Singer coordinated docent schedules.

Part 6

# Open for Business

The Maryland Women's Heritage Center officially opened on May 10, 2010 to great fanfare. Guests were greeted by a costumed suffragist standing in front of an antique car, calling loudly for "Votes for Women!" Emceed by Shoshana Cardin, the program included messages from former First Lady Frances Glendening, elected officials, educators, and activists. The First Lady, Katie O'Malley, read a proclamation from the Governor proclaiming that day "Maryland Women's Heritage Day."

**MEMORABLE PROGRAMS**

Groups of all ages soon came to the MWHC at the Lexington Street site, including Girl Scouts and their leaders and visitors from senior citizen centers.  A few of the programs:

- **Women of NASA:** Motivated by the importance of STEM education for girls, a partnership with the women of NASA in Greenbelt, Maryland was formed. NASA provided an exhibit and a wealth of materials about the diverse women and their varied careers related to space. They funded books and posters that were distributed to every school and library in the

state, and loaned audiovisual equipment so visitors could conduct deep research onsite. Three women of NASA, Claire Parkinson, Mary Cleave, and Florence Tan, repeatedly visited the Center to present programs for students and their families.

- **Women of World War II:** Women who had served during World War II, abroad and at home, were invited to the Center for honors. Some served in the military, others were Rosie the Riveters who served at home. Feminist author Penny Colman spoke to the group about her research and her book *Rosie the Riveter: Women Working on the Home Front in World War II*. Linda Linzey coordinated the day's event.

  Each attendee was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her service by Brigadier General Wilma Vaught, one of the most highly decorated military women in United States history and founding president of the Military Women's Memorial located at the ceremonial entrance to Arlington National Cemetery.

- **UN International Day of the Girl:** Girls from School Girls Unite, based in Montgomery County, Maryland, were instrumental in getting the United Nations to declare an International Day of the Girl Child. Observed each year on October 11, the day is dedicated to recognizing girls' power, promoting their rights and sharing their achievements. On the

first International Day of the Girl, the girls in School Girls Unite and their sponsor, Wendy Lesko, came to MWHC and set up interactive learning stations about various topics, from treatment in the media to art to social interaction.

The MWHC has also had an impact at both the national and international levels.

**NATIONAL IMPACT**

The National Collaborative for Women's History Sites (NCWHS) found that little information about the roles and contributions of girls and women was included at sites within the National Park Service nationwide.

After attending meetings at the Alice Paul House, Jill Moss Greenberg requested a meeting with the US Secretary of the Interior  Ken Salazar. It was held at MWHC, where Secretary Salazar and National Park Service (NPS) staff talked with women's history groups and stakeholders such as the National CEO of Girl Scouts. As a result, MWHC contributed to a greater inclusion of the stories of women and girls at NPS. To date, of the 400+ NPS sites, there are just seven named for women.

**INTERNATIONAL IMPACT**

A group of Fulbright Scholars, educators from about fifteen countries, visited the MWHC to learn what was being done to empower girls and women through learning their

history. Linda  Shevitz, Woody Grant, and Jill Moss Greenberg conducted a workshop and explored the MWHC resources. Many in the group said they were inspired to attempt a similar center in their home country. An educator from India was so engaged that she launched a similar project after returning home.




*Linda Shevitz, co-founder of the MWHC  at the first Maryland Women's Heritage Center located in the historic Baltimore Gas & Electric building. Photo courtesy of Baltimore Heritage.*

Part 7

# MWHC at the Woman's Industrial Exchange

After vacating the Lexington Street location in 2017, the MWHC's exhibits and other materials were put in storage for several years and operated virtually.

In December 2020, under the leadership of executive director Diana M. Bailey, MWHC moved into the historic Marian House/Woman's Industrial Exchange (WIE).



*Friends and supporters of artist Malynda Madzel (seated) surrounded her at the MWHC artist reception held at the beginning of Malynda's MWHC artist exhibition in September 2024. They are (l to r) Dora Strope, Vicki Bowman, Cynthia Jones, Joyce Cifaldi, and Patricia Marshall. Each is holding a painting that she had previously purchased from Malynda.*

Founded in 1880, WIE helped craftswomen discreetly earn a living and operated at 333 N. Charles Street in various forms until June 2020. The building's owner in 2020, Marian House, serves homeless and underemployed women. Occupying this space allowed MWHC to carry the WIE's and Marian House's spirit of serving women forward. Due to the COVID pandemic happening at the time, MWHC was not able to immediately open to the public.

On August 28, 2021, MWHC observed Women's Equality Day with an inaugural open house, with invited guests only due to ongoing COVID restrictions.

From that time until December 2025, the MWHC at WIE hosted tours, in-person and virtual programs, and an ongoing Women's Artist Series with free receptions open to the public.

One of the major accomplishments of the MWHC was researching, coordinating and presenting programs that celebrated the centennial anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which acknowledged the right for women to vote.

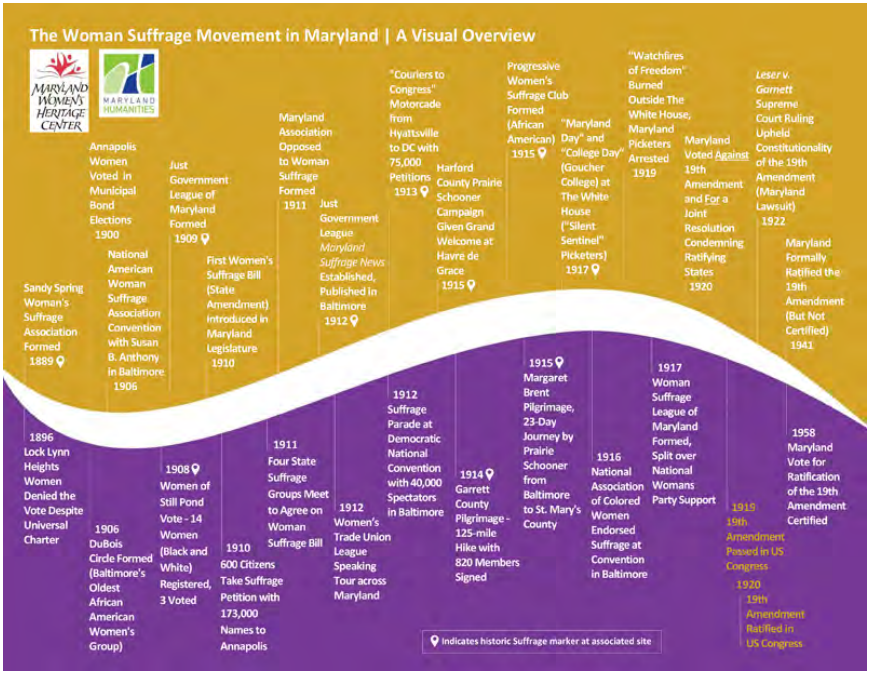
**Throughout 2020 - 2021 MWHC observed the anniversary by commemorating the valiant women who fought for the vote by shining a light on long-forgotten Maryland suffragists and telling their stories. MWHC volunteer researchers and writers:**

- Assembled the most comprehensive collection of biographies about Maryland's suffragists to date.

- Produced a traveling exhibit that featured statewide notable suffragists. In the face of the pandemic, MWHC also created an online version. The exhibit was loaned to organizations for their own events.

- MWHC, supported by volunteer women's history experts and funding from the Pomeroy Foundation, recognized Maryland suffragists with the installation of 10 permanent historical markers around the state. These markers put Maryland's valiant women on the map since they became part of the National Votes for Women Trail. MWHC, led by board member Dr. Pamela Young and supported with additional expertise by Dr. Amy Rosenkrans, Dr. Ida Jones and Judy Carbone made this vision a reality within two years. MWHC's brochure about markers and locations.

- Researched and recorded *Valiant Maryland Women; The Fight for the Vote*, 28 podcasts that tell the story of Maryland suffragists and other statewide leaders, with funding and technical assistance from Preservation Maryland. The series won the Excellence in Media & Publications award from the Maryland Historical Trust.




*MWHC volunteer Christine Valeriann researched and created a timeline about Maryland's suffrage movement.*

An additional important and original project focused on the untold stories of the women who worked and volunteered at the Woman's Industrial Exchange, making it a Baltimore landmark for over a century.

No one documented and celebrated the history of Baltimore's Woman's Industrial Exchange (WIE) until MWHC launched a two-year project to preserve artifacts found in the building and to conduct and archive oral histories of the women who kept the WIE in operation for more than 100 years. The grant was funded by the Baltimore National Heritage Area.

To mentor future women historians, the project leader, Dr. Amy Rosenkrans, recruited student interns from the Elizabeth Morrissy Honors Program at Notre Dame of Maryland University who served as researchers and presenters. They were Anna Choudhary and Eliza Davis.

Still within the shadow of the COVID pandemic, MWHC developed online programming and continued to offer this format with virtual presentations that highlighted many diverse women. A sample of the programs can be viewed here. https://mdwomensheritagecenter.org/graphic-collection-of-past-programs/

## Other Outreach and Programs

The MWHC was often mistaken for a much larger organization, based on the programs, outreach, events, podcasts, historical markers, and teacher resource kits generated over the years.

- **Maryland Women's Hall of Fame** and **Outstanding Young Women Leaders Awards:** MWHC continued to serve as a volunteer in the inductee selection and the development of biographical panels for the Hall of Fame exhibit. The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Exhibit is now on display at Notre Dame University of Maryland's Knott Science Center and on the MWHC website.

- **Woman Artists Window:** Every two months, MWHC showcased the work of 20+ diverse Maryland

women artists in the display window at 333 N. Charles Street. Free receptions, open to the public, helped these artists highlight their work.

- **Exhibits:** A wide range of traveling and online exhibits were designed including Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, Women in STEM, Women in the Arts, Unsung Heroines, and Women Lighthouse Keepers. These were lent to other organizations, libraries, and government agencies. MWHC redesigned and expanded its website during this time.

- **Research:** To preserve the history of the Woman's Industrial Exchange, MWHC researchers catalogued artifacts, collected oral histories, and archived documents about this Baltimore institution that has existed since shortly after the Civil War.

- **Education:** Resources for teachers, students, and the general public include recordings of programs in the HERstory Archive, The Maryland Women's Heritage Trail Resource Kits, and support for the Maryland History Day award in women's history.




Artist Susanna Eisenman: *What We've Been Through*, May 2025

*(Below) Examples of in person and virtual programs presented between 2020 - 2025*



FARMHER

WORKS OF HANDMADE PAPER AND THREAD BY ANNIE SIMCOE
MAY/JUNE
RECEPTION JUNE 22, 11AM-1 PM

MARYLAND WOMEN'S HERITAGE CENTER

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MARIAN HOUSE/ WOMEN'S INDUSTRIAL EXCHANGE • 333 N. CHARLES ST. BALTIMORE, MD 21201

ONE MILLION MILES
MY PEACE CORPS
JOURNEY

ZOOM DISCUSSION
WITH JODY OLSEN
THE 20TH PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR

WED. OCT 30
7:00 PM

When Jody Olsen enlisted as a Peace Corps volunteer in 1966, her work in Tunisia propelled her into a six-decade career with the Peace Corps, culminating as Director of the agency.



MARYLAND WOMEN'S HERITAGE CENTER

FREE REGISTRATION VIA
EVENTBRITE
DONATIONS APPRECIATED







Part 8

# Timeline

**1980**: The Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) launched the Maryland Women's History Project.

**1980 - 2000**: The Maryland Women's History Project conducted school and community programs and developed annual packets of materials, culminating in the Maryland Women's Heritage Trail. Linda Shevitz coordinated educational packets at the Equity Office of the Maryland

State Department of Education. Staff of MSDE (Maggie Green) and Delores Street and Vicki Wilson of the MCW helped to duplicate and distribute the materials statewide. Title IX Officers in every local school system assisted in providing the materials to every school and library.

**1983 – 1985:** The Maryland Commission for Women and the Women Legislators of Maryland partnered with representatives from the Maryland Women's History Project to form the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame under the leadership of Sally Grant, MCW Chair, and Martha Clark, MCW Executive Director.

**2004**: The Maryland Women's Heritage Center was formed, with First Lady Frances Hughes Glendening as the first President of the Board, Jill Moss Greenberg as Executive Director, and Linda A. Shevitz as Program Chair. A diverse board coordinated MWHC efforts and appointed an honorary board. Numerous programs and fundraising events were conducted throughout these years. A newsletter and website were created.

**2010**: The MWHC opened its first home, in the former Baltimore Gas & Electric Building at 39 W. Lexington Street in downtown Baltimore, in space donated by David Hillman and Southern Management Companies. Countless volunteers participated in the Center's creation. It was staffed by Judi Williams and, initially, Ellie Tryon Elgin on part-time loan from the Maryland Commission for Women.

Diana Bailey became Executive Director when Jill Moss Greenberg retired.

**2020**: After operating virtually for several years, MWHC moved into the historic Marian House/Woman's Industrial Exchange (WIE) building in December. Founded in 1880, WIE helped craftswomen discreetly earn a living and operated at 333 N. Charles Street in various forms until June 2020. Both the building's owner, **Marian House**, and MWHC serve women and carried the WIE's spirit into the future. On August 26, 2021, MWHC observed Women's Equality Day with an inaugural open house, with invited guests only due to COVID restrictions.

**2020**: When celebrating the centennial of the 19th Amendment, the MWHC conducted an original research project on the history of Maryland suffragists.

In addition, MWHC, supported by volunteer women's history experts and funding from the Pomeroy Foundation, recognized Maryland suffragists with the installation of 10 permanent historical markers around the state. These markers put Maryland's valiant women on the map since they became part of the National Votes for Women Trail.

As of 2025, markers are located in West Baltimore, Easton, Ellicott City, Frederick, Goucher College, Havre de Grace, Mountain Lake Park (Garrett), Sandy Spring, Westminster, and at 333 N. Charles Street, the home of the MWHC from 2020 - 2025.

**2025: Maryland Women's Heritage Center** (MWHC) reluctantly closed in December, 2025. It was the only organization in the state and one of the few in the country completely devoted to telling and preserving women's stories of accomplishment, compassion, and leadership.

Various factors contributed to this decision. As with many similar organizations of the time, there were challenges in finding board members and volunteers, raising funds, and applying for grants in a changing political world.

Rather than entirely deplete funds on hand, MWHC's board of directors, executive director and supporters vowed to use them to continue to "*add HERstory to history to tell OUR story*" as long as possible.

The Maryland Women's History Initiative (MWHI) was established using MWHC remaining funds to support projects that continue its mission to "add HERstory to history to tell OUR story." Projects can take many forms, including writing and research, virtual exhibits, scholarships, art, music, women in STEM, and other innovative approaches.

The fund is administered by the Community Foundation of Howard County. The fund supports statewide projects and reflects the statewide focus of the former MWHC. As of the date of this history, it continues to accept donations to support the cause of preserving women's history in Maryland.

Using a portion of these funds, MWHC volunteers worked with an website consultant to properly archive the MWHC websites. This includes original biographies, research, photographs and archives that will remain active and available to all. This includes the Maryland Suffragist Centennial and Woman's Industrial Exchange original research. This preserves content for future historians and others who champion equity in recorded history.

Part 9

# Leadership and Boards of Directors

Founders: Jill Moss Greenberg, Linda A. Shevitz

Executive Directors: Jill Moss Greenberg, Diana M. Bailey

Board Presidents: Frances Hughes Glendening, Maria Johnson Darby, Kathi Santora, Kate Campbell Stevenson

**Founding Board of Directors**

President: **Frances Hughes Glendening**, Former First Lady of Maryland

**Catherine "Katie" Curran O'Malley**, Former First Lady of Maryland

**Kendel S. Ehrlich**, Former First Lady of Maryland

**Nancy S. Grasmick**, Former Maryland State Superintendent of Schools

**Sharon Pinder**, The Pinder Group

**Michelle Duffy Orr,** Treasurer, Michelle Duffy Orr and Associates

**Helen Holton**, Former Chair, Maryland Commission for Women, Baltimore City Councilwoman

**Shoshana S. Cardin**, Honorary Development Chair, Former Chair, Maryland Commission for Women3434

**Audrey E. Scott**, Development Co-Chair, Former Mayor of Bowie, MD

**Betty Buck**, Development Co-Chair, President of Buck Distributing Co., Inc.

**Linda A. Shevitz**, Co-Founder, Program/Education Chair, Coordinator/Maryland Women's History Project

**Susan Morris Shaffer**, Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium

**Mark L. Shaffer**, Counsel and Site Selection Chair

**Charles Edward Senseney**, Accountant

**Jill Moss Greenberg**, Co-Founder, Executive Director

***Initial Board of Directors:***

*Lori Askinazi*

Diana M. Bailey

Sarian Bouma

Lynne Brick

Linda Busick

Penny Chrissomallis

Rita R. Colwell

Patricia E. Cornish

Catherine R. Gira

Joanne T. Goldsmith

Sally T. Grant

Artis G. Hampshire-Cowan

William “Brit” Kirwan

Juanita Tamayo Lott

David H. Nevins

Jo-Ann Mayer Orlinsky

Maria Torres Queral

Rita L. Robinson

Carole Sibel

Nancy Lindberg Sloane

Carolyn B. Stegman

Kate Campbell Stevenson

Rhonda Tomlinson

Carmen Delgado Votaw

Sue Ward

Kathy Wilmot

## 2025 Board of Directors

*Executive Committee:*

**Kate Campbell Stevenson**, President

**Kathi Santora**, Past President

**Danita Terry**, Vice-President, Programs

**Kalin Thomas**, Vice-President, Communications

**Bea Dane**, Treasurer

**Dr. Amy Rosenkrans**, Secretary

**Diana Bailey**, Executive Director

*Board of Directors:*

**Judy Carbone**, Maryland Commission for Women Liaison

**Beverly B. Carter**, Esq.

**Sally Grant**

**Dr. Ida E. Jones**

**Gina Marie Lewis**

**Cherie L. Snyder**

**Pamela Young, PhD**

**Honorary Founders:**

**Jill Moss Greenberg,** Executive Director Emerita

**Linda A. Shevitz**, Program Chair Emerita

**Date: September, 2026**